

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

Re: Purchase of bowles sterilisers in the Department of Health and Family Welfare

MR. SPEAKER.—Now the Hon. Minister for Health make a statement.

SRI K. BHASKAR NAIDU:—On a point of order. I want to know how long are we sitting. It is already 6 p. m.

MR. SPEAKER.—Soon after the Minister makes his statement, we will raise.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎ. ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀನಾರಾಯಣ್.—ಶ್ರೀಮನ್ ಬೊಮ್ಮಾಯಿಯವರು ತಮ್ಮ ಹೇಳಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಸಭೆಯ ಮುಂದಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಉತ್ತರ ಆದಮೇಲೆ ಅದರ ಮೇಲೆ ಕ್ಲಾರಿಫಿಕೇಷನ್ ಮಾಡಿ ವಿವರಣೆಗಳು ಆಗಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತವೆ. ಅಷ್ಟು ಸುಲಭವಾಗಿ ನಾವು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಉತ್ತರವನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದು ಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತೇನೆ ಎಂದು ಯಾರೂ ಭಾವಿಸಬಾರದು. ಆದುದರಿಂದ ಇವತ್ತು ೭ ಗಂಟೆಯಾದರೂ ಆಗ ಬಹುದು. ನಾಳೆ ಸಭೆ ಇದೆ ಇದಕ್ಕೋಸ್ಕರ ನಾಳೆ ಒಂದು ಗೊತ್ತಾದಂಥ ವೇಳೆಯನ್ನು ನಿಗದಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು.

ಶ್ರೀ ಜಿ. ಭಾಸ್ಕರ ಶೆಟ್ಟಿ.—ಎಷ್ಟು ಹೊತ್ತಾದರೂ ಇದು ಇವತ್ತೇ ಆಗಬೇಕು.

ಶ್ರೀ ಪಿ. ರಾಮದೇವ್.—ಸ್ವಾಮಿ, ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಚಿವರು ಒಂದು ಹೇಳಿಕೆ ಕೊಡುವುದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಮುಂಚೆ ನಾನು ಬಂದೆರಡು ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕೇಳಿಬಿಡುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಏತಕ್ಕಿಂತ ನಾನು ಹಿಂದೆಯೇ ಇದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸಿದ್ದೇನೆ ಇಲ್ಲಿಯವರೆಗೆ ಉತ್ತರ ಬಂದಿಲ್ಲ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಹಾಗೆ ವಿವರಗಳು ನನ್ನ ಹತ್ತಿರವಿವೆ. ನಾನು ಕೇಳಿದ ನಂತರ ಅವರು ಹೇಳಿಕೆ ಕೊಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದುದರಿಂದ ತಾವು ನನಗೆ ಆವಕಾಶ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಡಬೇಕು.

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು.—ಆ ಮೇಲೆ ಕೇಳಿ ಅದಕ್ಕೇನು ?

6.00 P. M.

SRI M. MALLAPPA (Minister for Health & Family Welfare).—Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have read the report appeared in PRAJAVANI and DECCAN HERALD, and I have gone through the allegations made by the hon. the Leader of the Opposition on the basis of the report made therein. In brief he has said that there is corruption so far as this transaction is concerned, the technical Committee has rejected the tender and the tender should be cancelled or withheld. I may categorically state that the report made in PRAJAVANI and DECCAN HERALD is baseless. I do not understand as to what is the basis for the report. If my hon. friend Sri S. R. Bommai could have gone into the details of the transaction, I am quite certain he would not have made that allegation. This is a transaction which relates to the purchase of Bowels Sterilizers which were in great demand and need in various hospitals. There was no hurry to purchase these Bowels-Sterilizers, and the rules and regulations have all been followed. We have got a Technical Committee consisting of doctors and technical men who will see the sample and satisfy themselves about the

equipment and then make a recommendation to the High Power Committee. The High Power Committee will scrutinise all the tenders and the recommendations made by the Technical Committee and then the file is sent for the approval of the Minister. This is the procedure that is followed.

In this case, I would like to state in brief the facts. The statement that the deal regarding the purchase of Bowels Sterilizers has resulted in a loss to the State Exchequer is not a true fact, because this was the only valid tender which was duly recommended by the Expert Committee.

As regards the cost of this equipment the production cost is not known to us. But the Experts Committee which has examined the samples had approved of the equipment. They have also testified that the equipment is of stainless steel. This has been verified by the Department of Industries and Commerce. Also in the rate contract a condition has been incorporated that the equipment supplied should be covered by a certificate of the Industries Department regarding the specification as well as the material used in its manufacture.

As regards the requirement of the equipment, a Committee appointed by the Director, Health & Family Welfare Services to assess the requirements has assessed that as many as 218 pieces would be required but orders placed are only for 100.

It is also absolutely wrong to say that the Minister has personal interest in this deal. It is also wrong to say that the Minister took personal interest in the movement of the file in the Secretariat. Very recently they have placed the order and they have not supplied the material yet. In fact, Government has not directed to purchase any specific quantity as is presumed. It is the Director and the Committee which have fixed the number. At the Government level only clearance is given for re-appropriation of the funds out of the savings for purchase of certain quantity of this equipment on the recommendation of the Director. When we do not have money, they seek reappropriation. Because this machinery was badly required in various hospitals and there was an indent, we have reappropriated and permitted the Director to purchase the same.

I am not aware of the background or the Financial or the other status of the dealer. In fact, not a single rupee is paid to the dealer towards the purchase of the equipment. Therefore it has nothing to do with adding to his status, etc.

Regarding the Income Tax and Sales Tax Certificate, It is found that the dealer had produced this certificate before the last date fixed

for the tender. But they were said to be not in the form usually used. However, because -

- (i) form used is the responsibility of the Sales Tax Department and not the Firm ;
- (ii) Sales Tax clearance certificate in the usual form had been submitted before the meeting of the High Power Committee ;
- (iii) The tender of another firm 'Surgical Instruments Manufacturing Company' which has submitted in the same form was also accepted ;

the Government considered that the tender be accepted as it was recommended by the Expert Committee.

It is not true that the Expert Committee has rejected this Tender. On the other hand, they have recommended this case,

The cost of the equipment is Rs. 8,190/- and not Rs. 8,100/-

As regards the facts that the dealer met me at New Delhi, Bombay and other places and travelled with me are all of form truth.

Further, I wish to bring to your kind notice that I am not a frequent visitor to Delhi or Bombay. Usually I do not go outside unless there is important work, and within a day or two I finish the work and get back. It is alleged that the proprietor of the firm is good to me and he stayed with me at Delhi and Bombay. It is far from truth. Let the hon. members touch their heart and make the allegation, I do not know how the reporter, without any verification, has made a report in the DECCAN HERALD. It is also under careful consideration as to what action should be taken against such a report. We have to equip the hospitals with the necessary equipment. In all such transactions there are Committees who take a decision. Of course, when the Government takes a wrong decision, there is a course open to them. Suppose the Government won't accept the proper tender, they have got the High Court to whom they can approach. If the order had been set aside by the Court at the instance of the tenderer, I would have accepted it. They have placed the order only about a week or two ago, I do not know whether the firm is in a position to supply the material, because within a short duration they have been asked to supply the material. Further, even though the demand is for 218 pieces they have placed orders only for 100. I do not know what made the other tenderers to come forward and say that they are going to supply at the rate of Rs. 6,000/-. Let their specification be accepted by the Experts Committee and the High Power Committee. I have not in any way soiled my hands in this tra-

nsaction. I do not allow things to go in that way if it comes to my notice. If the other tenderers are prepared to supply the same quality of the equipment we are going to give a chance to them also.

There was a rumour spread in Bangalore that Rs. 40 lakhs worth of equipment has been purchased from this firm and money has been paid. I called the Director and asked him whether they have placed any orders on this form. He said that not a single paisa has been paid to the firm. Sir, we do not know anything about the transaction except the facts that are available on the file.

ಶ್ರೀ ಪಿ. ರಾಮದೇವ್:— ಸ್ವಾಮಿ, ನಾನು ಹೇಳುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ ಇವತ್ತು ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಸರ್ಜಿಕಲ್ ಎಕ್ಸ್‌ಪ್ಲೋಷಿವ್ ಕಂಪನಿಯವರಿಂದ ಒಂದೇ ಒಂದು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಸ್ಟೆರಿಲೈಸರ್ಸ್ ೪೦೦ ಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ೨೧೮ ಹೇಕು ಎಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಇದನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ಯೂಸ್ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆಯೇ? ೪೦೦ ಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ೨೧೮ಕ್ಕೆ ಆರ್ಡರ್ ಕೊಡಬೇಕಾದರೆ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಷ್ಟು ಅಪರೇಷನ್ ಥಿಯೇಟರ್‌ಗಳು ಇದೆ ಎಂಬುದಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರು ಉತ್ತರ ಹೇಳಬೇಕು. ಇದರ ಮಾಲೀಕರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಕಫಾಯ್ ಅವರಿಗೂ ನಿಮಗೂ ಸ್ನೇಹ ಇಲ್ಲವೇ? ಅವರು ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಅಪರೇಷನ್ ಥಿಯೇಟರ್‌ಗೆ ಬೇಕಾದ ಗ್ಯಾಡ್‌ಜಟ್ ಅನ್ನು ಸಪ್ಲೈ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೊಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಅವರ ಹತ್ತಿರ ೬೦ ಸಾವಿರ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳನ್ನು ವಸೂಲು ಮಾಡಲಿಲ್ಲವೇ? ಈ ಕಫಾಯ್ ಎನ್ನುವ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ “ನಾನು ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ದುಡ್ಡು ಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದೇನೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿಕೊಂಡು ಹೆಲ್ತ್ ಸೆಕ್ರೆಟರಿ ಯಿಂದ ಒಡಿದು ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಹದಿರುಸ್ತುತಿರುವುದು ನಿಜವಲ್ಲವೇ? ತಾವು ಕೂರು ರೋಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರು ಒಂದು ಗೆಸ್ಟ್‌ಹೌಸ್ ಕಟ್ಟಿಲ್ಲವೇ? ಅಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ತಾವು ಅನೇಕ ಬಾರಿ ಹೋಗಿಲ್ಲವೇ? ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ತಾವು ಉತ್ತರ ಕೊಡಬೇಕು, ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನಾನು ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕಳಿಸಿ ಒಂದು ತಿಂಗಳಾಯಿತು. ಇದುವರೆಗೂ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಉತ್ತರ ಹೇಳಿಲ್ಲ. ಈಗಲಾದರೂ ಇದಕ್ಕೆಲ್ಲ ಉತ್ತರ ಕೊಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇನೆ.

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು:— ತಾವು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಅಪಾದನೆಗಳಿಗೆಲ್ಲಾ ಎವಿಡೆನ್ಸ್ ಇದೆಯಾ?

ಶ್ರೀ ಪಿ. ರಾಮದೇವ್:— ಇದೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು ತಮ್ಮ ಸ್ನೇಹವೆಂಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಅಪಾದನೆಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರಾಕರಿಸಿ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದರೆ ಸಾಲದು, ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತನಿಖೆ ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಒಂದು ಕಮಿಟಿಯನ್ನು ಮಾಡಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತೇನೆ.

Sri M. MALLAPPA.— The allegations made are malicious and mischievous and I refute all those allegations. I have got a strong mind, I will not stoop to these things. Merely because of hearsy persons will come and give information, I request my friends not to believe them. If these allegations are proved, I am prepared to tender my resignation not only from the Ministership but also from the membership. I know how to maintain my character and how to maintain the dignity of the House. These wild allegations shall not have been made at any cost. I would like to add one word more. There was only one valid tender and that tender has been accepted. The conditions of the tender are.

That the samples must be produced and unless it is done, the tenders will not be scrutinised. Merely quoting some figures, if they do not produce the required sample, than it will not be accepted. No body has produced the sample and he was the only person who had

produced the sample. The Samples so sent must be sent to the Industries Department for verification and on their certificate the tenders can be accepted. I have accepted the tenders after observing all the formalities. Even today let them appoint a committee to that effect. I have not soiled my hands and even the Expert Committee has not soiled its hand and even the High Power Committee has not soiled its hands. Merely because his tender was not accepted, this allegation is made. These allegations have been made without any responsibility.

So far as L. A. question is concerned, I am not shirking the responsibility; it is there, the calling attention is also there, let hundreds of them come, I am prepared to answer them.

SRI S. R. BOMMAI.— How many tenders were called for out of which the lowest and the highest tender?

SRI M. MALLAPPA.— There were many tenders but without the samples.

SRI S. R. BOMMAI.— My question is straight. How many tenders were received which was the lowest tender and the name of the tenderer and which was the highest tender and the name of the tenderer and the difference between the highest and lowest tender.

SRI M. MALLAPPA.— There were 8 tenders, 2430 no sample, 4200 no sample, 4200 no sample, 4900 no sample, 5450 no sample, 6145 no sample, 7759 no sample and with samples 8190.

SRI S. R. BOMMAI.— Whether the terms of the tender was published in the press and whether there was a condition that samples should be supplied along with the tenders ?

SRI M. MALLAPPA.— They did not consider the tenders without the samples because they were of brass type or silverware type.

SRI S. R. BOMMAI.— How can they send the samples along with the tenders?

SRI M. MALLAPPA.— The general conditions of the tenders are that three samples of each of the items tendered should be sent to the Deputy Director of Medical Services, Palace Road, Bangalore-1, The last date for receipt of the tender was also fixed-

They had not sent the samples. They were also required to enclose the certificates viz., the Sales Tax Clearance Certificate and the Income Tax Clearance Certificate.

SRI A. LAKSHMISAGAR.— May I know who are the members of the Expert Committee and the High Power Committee ?

SRI M. MALLAPPA.—The members of the Expert Committee are—

1. Dr. Sridhar, Joint Director of Medical Services.
2. Sri N. A. Narayanaswamy of Victoria Hospital,
3. Sri C. Vittal, Head of the Department of Surgery,
Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital,
4. Dr. N. K. Channappa, Principal, Bangalore Medical
College.
5. Dr. K. G. Das
6. Dr. Arundati.
7. Dr. S. Subramanyam
8. M. R. Kerodu
9. Dr. Premananda
and another.

These 10 doctors constituted the Committee of Experts.

The members of the High Power Committee are :

1. Commissioner for Health and Secretary to Government,
2. Finance Commissioner,
3. Commissioner for Industries and Commerce.
4. Project Co-ordinator, India Population.
5. Director of Health and Family Welfare.
6. Controller of Drugs.
7. Deputy Controller of Drugs.

SRI S. R. BOMMAI.—When there is a difference of nearly Rs.6,000 normally in such cases, re-tender has to be called for, giving due publicity. So, what made the Committee not to call for re-tender ; and are they given any reasons ?

SRI M. MALLAPPA.—Even after acceptance, payment against the supply will be made after the tenderer obtained a certificate from the Industries Department. Because, they are competent to say about the products of the company. We have got such equipments for different rates. If these persons come forward to accept that conditions, I think their case would have been also considered. We want to purchase 180 pices next year. Then, let those persons come forward with samples and tender. Why they have accepted, this, because, otherwise there will be delay since it was year ending. And if equipments are not purchased within that period, the money will also lapse. For the information of hon. Members, we have purchased about 48 X-Ray machines. Every year, the amount provided was 18 lakhs of rupees. At least this year, we have been able to make use of the allotted funds by purchasing the required equipments for the hospital. Is it a sin to go ahead with this ? We have not committed any sin. On the other hand, we

have done something which resulted in getting equipments for the use of the people through the hospital.

SRI A. LAKSHMISAGAR.—When there was a vast difference between the lowest and the highest tender, why the entire transaction was not by calling for re-tender?

SRI M. MALLAPPA.—For your information, satisfaction and to clear the clouds mounted on your mind, I may tell the reasons stated by the High Power Committee. At the time of preferring his tender, he did not attach the sales tax clearance certificate. The certificate produced was not the one obtained according to the law. To that extent this tender was also invalid. But later he has produced the clearance certificate of sales tax and also income tax. For these seasons, I thought that it should not go by default and let us have the supply made to the hospital.

SRI S. R. BOMMAI.—Now the cat is out of the bag. The tender accepted was also not valid. The Technical Committee rejected that. I would like to mention that when the rate difference was Rs. 6,000 in the interest of the State Exchequer and in the interest of strict finance discipline they should have called for re-tender. I very well appreciate the anxiety of the Minister to purchase the equipments for the hospital within the time. But when the difference was to the tune of Rs. 6,000 for one instrument, and though there was defect in the tender, why it was accepted? And when there were other 20 tenders, whether notice has been given to them to produce samples? Normally, the Finance Code says that when there is vast difference, in the interest of the State finance, re-tender should be called for. What was the difficulty in calling for re-tender? And also I would like to know the date of the report and also the last date prescribed for tender.

SRI A. LAKSHMISAGAR.—The matter was hanging fire for more than six months. But at the last moment they hurried up because the money would lapse. Therefore, why this matter was not attended to for such a long time; and why only they hushed up matter at the fag end? Though there were formal defects in the tender for non-supply of sale-tax clearance certificate and income-tax certificate, why similar concessions were not extended to other tenderers? Why this extraordinary consideration? I could understand the righteous indignation of the hon. Minister in taking such action. According to the Minister the allegation made is false. Let him understand that we have not come here only to air our grievances and place him on the mat. We are also doing our job with equal seriousness as the Minister does by way of making his submission. Therefore, we want to know the date

of the tender, acceptance of the tender by the Technical Committee and the High Power Committee, and also the date of the final order.

SRI M. MALLAPPA.—It is found that he has produced the required certificate before the last date fixed for the tender. The Sales-tax clearance certificate in the usual form has been submitted before the meeting of the High Power Committee. The tender in the prescribed form was also accepted. Government considered that the tender be accepted as it was recommended by the Expert Committee. The last date for the receipt of tender was 27th March 1978. It was extended upto 18th April 1978 by a notification on 31st March 1978. It was also published through the Director of Information by giving adequate opportunity. It was appeared in Deccan Herald and copies of the notification was sent to Government of India Undertakings and also firms which had participated in the previous occasion. Between 15th and 20th May they have finalised it.

SRI C. M. ARMUGHAM.—Let the Hon. Minister study all these things and give a reply to-morrow.

6-30 P.M.

SRI M. MALLAPPA.—The date in respect of High Power Committee is 15th and 17th June 1978. I have passed orders on 16th July 1978. On 15th and 17th June the High Power Committee has met.

SRI S. R. BOMMAI.—When there was recommendation on 16th July 1978, why did the Government wait till the end of March 1979 ?

SRI M. MALLAPPA.—They had reappropriation and getting information was also necessary.

SRI S. R. BOMMAI.—You have cleared it seven months back. Where was the necessity for the Government wait till the last week of March ?

SRI M. MALLAPPA.—We have appointed a Committee to know how much quantity has to be purchased; they wanted information from the taluka level and district level.

SRI S. R. BOMMAI.—Without knowing the requirements how could you do it ? After accepting the tender, then want to go into the details of requirements. That is a wonderful way. When did you give final orders to him ?

ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿ. ಎಂ. ಚಂದ್ರೇಗೌಡ :—ಅಪೂರ್ವ ಆದ ಕೂಡಲೇ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕೂಂತ ಎಲ್ಲಿದೆ ? ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ ಏನೂ ಇಲ್ಲವಲ್ಲ.

SRI M. MALLAPPA.-Sir, it is very difficult to convince them^o Unless they know the actual requirements, how can they place orders? Date of orders placed by the party is not available.

SRI A. LAKSHMISAGAR.-What is the date of final orders?

SRI M. MALLAPPA.-They have placed the order in the month of March 1979-on 17th March 1979-very recently.

SRI S. R. BOMMAI.-When the Government could wait from 16th July 1978 till 17th March 1979 what was the necessity of calling re-tender? A difference of six months have elapsed. A difference of six thousand rupees is there; they should have called for re-tenders. Why was this delay on the part of this man-whomever he is? There is delay in giving the order. The man followed everybody for six months and ultimately got the order. On 16th July 1978 there is clearance. Within fifteen days orders could have been issued. Six months, time is taken.

SRI M. MALLAPPA.-The tender accepted will be valid up to 31st March 1979. We did not know how much he has to supply. We are going to re-open the tender from next month; let them come forward and give quotation.

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು :-ಡೇಟ್ ಆಫ್ ಆರ್ಡರ್ಸ್, ಅಡ್ವಾನ್ಸ್, ಏತಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿದಿರಿ ಎಂದು ಕೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

SRI M. MALLAPPA.-They wanted information from the districts and taluks. The amount was not available for payment. They wanted reappropriation.

SRI A. LAKSHMISAGAR.-I am sorry the Government is callous about what it is doing. Firstly, Government should be in a position to ascertain the requisite amount and the instruments required for the hospital and then they must go in for tender and then buy. The entire transaction is very strange. It smacks of favouritism, nepotism and corruption. There is no other explanation. It is shameful for the Government to think of the number of instruments required after finalisation of the tender. What is the explanation the Hon. Minister is going to give? They accept a higher tenderer; they give him all kinds of concessions and they also show him concessions in the matter of clearance certificate and thereafter they think of the number of items they have to purchase. This is very strange. The Hon. Minister owes an explanation for the entire transaction. The explanation he has given does not satisfy any member of this House, particularly, the members of this side of the House. Therefore, Sir, there must be an enquiry into the whole nasty deal.

SRI S. R. BOMMAI.-I would like to make a suggestion to the Hon. Minister. From certain things that were explained here,

it is very clear that there is some fishy about the matter. Let him cancel the present order. Let him call for the re-tender. Some times, the same man comes. It may happen. I don't say it will not happen. But in the normal course, even the A. G. objects. As a Chairman of the P.A.C. and as a Member of the P.A.C. for a number of years, I would like to tell my experience. In such cases, the normal course to be followed is to call for the the re-tenders, and even in the second time it may happen that only one tenderer might be there. I don't deny that but to prove the *bona-fides* of the Minister because of the Suspicious Circumstances, the only way I would suggest is to cancel this and call for the re-tenders.

SRI. M. MALLAPPA.—They are under the impression that merely because there is a rate contract, the Government is bound to purchase. That is not correct. As and when requirements are there, then only they are going to place the orders. On account of shortage of funds and other things, we may place orders for only 100 equipments. ನಮಗೆ ೫೦೦ ಬೇಕೆಂದು ಕೊಟ್ಟರೂ ೫೦೦ ಪರ್ಜೆಸ್ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೇವೆ ಏನು ? ೫೦ ಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಪರ್ಜೆಸ್ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು ಅಥವಾ ೧೦೦ ಪರ್ಜೆಸ್ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು. It is an annual rate contract and not a bulk quantity rate contract. In the case of drugs also, we have fixed the rate contract. I would once again like to say that this is a rate contract and not a bulk contract. So, orders cannot be placed...

SRI A. LAKSHMISAGAR.—As per the tender notifications, how many number of instruments were required to be supplied by the tenderers ? Did they indicate any number to be supplied by the tenderers ?

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಮಲಪ್ಪ :—ಯಾವಗಲೂ ನಾವು ಇಷ್ಟು ಕ್ವಾಂಟಿಟಿ ಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಹಾಕುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ರೇಟ್ ಫಿಕ್ಸ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಕೊಡುತ್ತೇವೆ.

ಶ್ರೀ ಪಿ. ರಾಂದೇವ್ —ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರೆ, ಪಾಯಿಂಟ್ ಆಫ್ ಆರ್ಡರ್...

MR. SPEAKER.—The Hon. Leader of the Opposition and other hon. Members have sufficiently sought the clarifications from the Hon. Minister. We have discussed this matter for about 40 minutes. If the hon. Members would like to have further information, they can seek it in a different way.

Now the House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 9 A.M.

The House adjourned at Forty five Minutes past Six of the Clock to meet again at Nine of the Clock, On Tuesday, the 27th March, 1978.